

Message Text

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51

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 EURE-00 GAC-01 ACDA-19 MBFR-03

SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 NIC-01 OMB-01

TRSE-00 EB-11 CIEP-02 STR-08 RSR-01 /150 W

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P R 131505 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4488

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMCONSUL BREMEN UNN

AMCONSUL DUESSELDORF UNN

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT UNN

AMCONSUL MUNICH UNN

AMCONSUL STUTTGART UNN

UNCLAS BONN 5475

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, GW

SUBJECT: OVERWEHELMING SUPPORT FOR BRANDT PROGRAM AT SPD PARTY
CONGRESS

REF: (A) BONN 3340; (B) BONN 5359

SUMMARY: DESPITE BEING ABLE TO CREATE CONSIDERABLE
DEBATE IN WORKING GROUP AND CORRIDOR CONVERSATIONS,
THE LEFT WING OF THE SPD HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO PUT
TOGETHER A STRONG OPPOSITION TO RESOLUTIONS SPONSORED
BY CHANCELOT BRANDT AND THE SPD LEADERSHIP DURING
VOTING IN PLENARY SESSION AT THE SPD PARTY CONGRESS.
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SUPPORTED BY NUMEROUS INTERVENTIONS ON THE PART OF THE CHANCELLOR HIMSELF, THE LEADERSHIP HAS BEEN MOST SUCCESSFUL IN GAINING ACCEPTANCE OF RESOLUTIONS GIVING STRONG SUPPORT TO CONTINUATION OF CLOSE TIES WITH THE UNITED STATES AND THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE. A LEFTIST-INTRODUCED RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN END TO FRG OFFSET PAYMENTS FOR THE STATIONING OF US FORCES WAS ALSO DEFEATED DECISIVELY. THERE HAS BEEN MORE CONTROVERSY ON MATTERS DEALING WITH DOMESTIC ISSUES, BUT HERE TOO THE BRANDT POLICIES HAVE WON WIDESPREAD ACCEPTANCE. IN VOTING FOR THE NEW EXECUTIVE BOARD ON APRIL 13, BRANDT WAS RE-ELECTED SPD CHAIRMAN BY A VOTE OF 404 TO 20, WITH FOUR ABSTENTIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. THE FIRST RESOLUTION INTRODUCED BY THE LEADERSHIP FOR APPROVAL ON THE EVENING OF APRIL 12 PROVIDED FOR A STRONG CONTINUING COMMITMENT TO FRIENDSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES AND ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP IN THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE. THE PROPOSAL STATED THAT THE BASIS OF GERMAN SECURITY WAS THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE, WHOSE SUPPORT HAD PROVIDED FOR THE FRG THE BASIS FOR ITS WON DETENTE POLICY. ONLY WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE NATO ALLIES HAD IT BEEN POSSIBLE TO OBTAIN THE FRUITS OF THE EASTERN POLICY SUCH AS THE MOSCOW AND WARSAW TREATIES, THE BERLIN AGREEMENT AND THE AGREEMENTS WITH THE GDR. THE RESOLUTION DESCRIBED THE CONTINUED POLITICAL AND MILITARY PRESENCE OF THE UNITED STATES AS ESSENTIAL FOR CONTINUATION OF A BALANCE IN THE POWER RELATIONSHIPS IN EUROPE. IT CALLED UPON THE GOVERNMENT TO COUPLE CONTINUED EFFORTS TOWARDS WEST EUROPEAN UNITY WITH INITIATIVES AIMED AT ACHIEVING PROGRESS IN COMMON EUROPEAN POLICIES TOWARDS SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT. THE GOVERNMENT WAS ALSO CALLED UPON TO PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN THE CONFERENCES IN HELSINKI AND VIENNA WITH A VIEW TO REDUCING TENSIONS IN THE INTERESTS OF PEACE IN EUROPE.

2. DEBATE ON THIS RESOLUTION WAS MARKED BY A SHARP EXCHANGE BETWEEN CHANCELLOR BRANDT AND EX-JUSO CHAIRMAN KARSTEN VOIGT. VOIGT CHARGED THAT IN DRAFTING THE RESOLUTION, THE GOVERNMENT HAD PAID TOO MUCH ATTENTION TO THE INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES AND HE DESCRIBED

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THE LONG-TERM PRESENCE OF AMERICAN TROOPS IN GERMANY AS

BEING " DANGEROUS FOR VARIOUS SOCIAL REASONS." HE ALSO CRITICIZED " AMERICAN IMPERIALISM", ALTHOUGH HE ADDED, SOMEWHAT CONFUSEDLY, THAT HIS CRITICISMS SHOULD NOT BE READ AS BEING ANTI- AMERICAN.

3. OBVIOUSLY ANGERED BY THESE REMARKS, THE CHANCELLOR WENT TO THE PODIUM AND SHARPLY REJECTED THE CLAIM THAT " SOME OF US HERE ARE REPRESENTING THE INTERESTS OF OTHER COUNTRIES." TURNING TO VOIGT HE SAID: " YOUR PARTY CHAIRMAN WILL NOT TAKE THAT FROM YOU. THAT IS NOT TRUE AND WE WILL NOT ALLOW OURSELVES TO BE STAMPED AS SOMETHING WHICH WE ARE NOT". BRANDT CONTINUED THAT THE POLITICAL PRESENCE OF THE UNITED STATES IN EUROPE WAS ESPECIALLY NECESSARY AT THIS TIME, SINCE IT WOULD PROVIDE FOR AMERICAN PARTICIPATION AT THE CONFERENCES IN HELSINKI AND VIENNA. OTHERWISE HE POINTED OUT, THE EUROPEAN WOULD BE FACING THE SOVIET SUPER POWER ALONE. FOLLOWING BRANDT'S REMARKS, THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED THROUGH A SHOW OF HANDS BY A MARGIN ESTIMATED AT ABOUT FOUR TO ONE.

4. AFTER APPROVAL OF THE FOREIGN POLICY RESOLUTION, THE LEFT ATTEMPTED TO RETALIATE BY PROPOSING A RESOLUTION WHICH WOULD LIMIT FRG DEFENSE SPENDING AT THE 1972 LEVEL. BUT THIS TOO WAS DEFEATED DECISIVELY AFTER A SHARP DISCUSSION IN WHICH THE CHANCELLOR PARTICIPATED ONCE AGAIN. FURTHER DECISIONS IN THE FOREIGN POLICY FIELD INCLUDED DEFEAT OF MOTIONS ATTACKING THE PRESENCE OF AMERICAN TROOPS IN EUROPE AND CALLING FOR AN END OF OFFSET PAYMENTS BY THE UNITED STATES, AND DEFEAT OF A DRAFT RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN END TO CONTACTS WITH THE MILITARY REGIME IN GREECE BY HIGH OFFICIALS OF THE FRG. DELEGATES DID, HOWEVER, APPROVE A RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO BLOCK MEMBERSHIP OF GREECE AND SPAIN IN THE COMMON MARKET AS LONG AS THEY WERE GOVERNED BY THE PRESENT REGIMES.

5. DEBATE AT THE CONGRESS HAS BEEN MORE HEATED ON QUESTIONS SUCH AS CAPITAL FORMATION FOR WORKERS AND REAL ESTATE REFORM THAN ON FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES, BUT HERE TOO THE EXPECTATION IS THAT THE CHANCELLOR'S
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POLICIES WILL BE APPROVED WITH LARGE MAJORITIES. THE MAIN EVENT ON APRIL 13 WILL BE ELECTION OF THE NEW EXECUTIVE BOARD, WHERE AS NOTED IN REF (A) THE LEFT WING OF THE PARTY WILL EXERT GREAT EFFORTS TO INCREASE ITS PRESENT REPRESENTATION WHICH STANDS AT THREE OF THE

THIRTY- SIX MEMBERS. IN EARLY VOTING ON APRIL 13, BRANDT
WAS RE- ELECTED AS PARTY CHAIRMAN BY A VOTE OF 404 TO 20
WITH FOUR ABSTENTIONS. HILLENBRAND

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